"Field Book of Insects"

DR. FRANK E. LUTZ'S post of duty at the American Museum of Natural History has made him a sort of a bureau of information to the popular interest in the crawling, skipping and flying little creatures about us. The line thus acquired on what the average person of observation but unlearned in natural history wants to know has helped in putting together the Field Book of Insects, which will answer many questions of the curious.

It happens that there are about three times as many living species of insects as of all other animals put together—some 400,000—and about 15,000 of them are to be found within fifty miles of New York city. The task, then, of compiling a handbook like this neat duodecimo volume of 500 pages is manifestly one of selection, which, even to an expert, would seem to call for wholesale elimination that would make careful discrimination impossible, so innumerable are the items.

As the book is meant for the layman we express the opinion that the author has included most of the bugs we have seen as boys under stones and in the gardens and fields and woods and want to know more about, as well as a great many more beside. As for the farmer, a knowledge of the double or even triple lives that some vine and fruit bugs lead may help save crops.

The illustrations, of which there are a full hurdred, covering 800 subjects, present lifelike portraits of many of our old friends and of many strangers worthy of perpetuation, whether for a rogues' gallery or for their pretty decoration and extreme divergence from our own style of beauty. The plates are by Mrs. E. N. Beutenmüller and are drawn with great skill, and the colored ones are very pleasing in their bright and true effects. We healtate to measure the art which can compass so much detail with so much delicacy.

The author gives valuable bints in a preface and generalizations as to the practical and scientific aspects of the insect world in a free style which he extends to his account of such specimens as are dealt with in detail. There is an index by habitat, by which the unscientific person who does not know a bug's name can still track him home.

FIELD BOOK OF INSECTS. By FRANK E. LUTZ. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Love Intrigues of the Kaiser's Sons, by William Le Queux, is a story, presumably, of peaceful conquests.



Three years of hairbreadth escapes from death—the sole survivor of many a "sacrifice" battery, "Horseshoe" Grant tells all his astounding experiences in his new book,

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Conan Doyle on "The New Revelation"

W HEN a man of the character and the reputation for common sense of Conan Doyle announces his faith in spiritualism he must have a hearing without even demanding it. When he states the reasons for his faith as calmly and clearly as Sir Arthur does in his volume The New Revelution it is a creed worthy of two hours of every one who has paid attention to a controversy that has engaged the English speaking world for the last seventy years.

Doyle's book has this great advantage over most other recent books in support of spiritualism, that it avoids the abstruse, the cant phrase of the medium and the nebulous wordings that leave the reader to wonder whether the authors really knew what they were trying to say. There is nothing misty about Sir Arthur. Some of the critics of his tiction have sneeringly observed that he was not a novelist, but merely a reporter. Well, here we have a book that demanded the work of a reporter and not of a novelist. Sometimes he errs in fact, but not in an important way. When he refers to Judge Edmunds . . a judge of the United States High Courts" the American reader knows that this is a slip of the memory and that he means John Worth Edmonds, who was a Judge of the Supreme Court of the State of New York; the author, with George T. Dexter, of Spiritualism, a book which Doyle read in 1886 with interest but absolute scep-

"It seemed to me an example of how a hard, practical man might have a weak side to his brain."

Years afterward, when Doyle found spiritualism indorsed by men like Crookes, Wallace and Flammarion, he decided that he could not afford to dismiss it. Spencer had decided against it on a priori grounds and Huxley said that the subject did not interest him, but Doyle refused to follow their "unscientific and dogmatic" action.

The Home Levitation.

Sir Arthur evidently believes in the genuineness of the most sensational spiritualistic performance ever announced, the Home levitation:

"Take a single incident of what Wallace has truly called a modern miracle. I choose it because it is the most incredible. I allude to the assertion that D. D. Home-who, by the way, was not, as is usually supposed, a paid adventurer, but was the nephew of the Earl of Home-the assertion, I say, that he floated out of one window and into another at the height of seventy feet above the ground. I could not believe it. And yet, when I knew that the fact was attested by three eyewitnesses, who were Lord Dunraven, Lord Lindsay and Captain Wynne, all men of honor and repute who were willing afterward to take their oath upon it, I could not but admit that the evidence for this was more direct than for any of those far-off events which the whole world has agreed to accept as true."

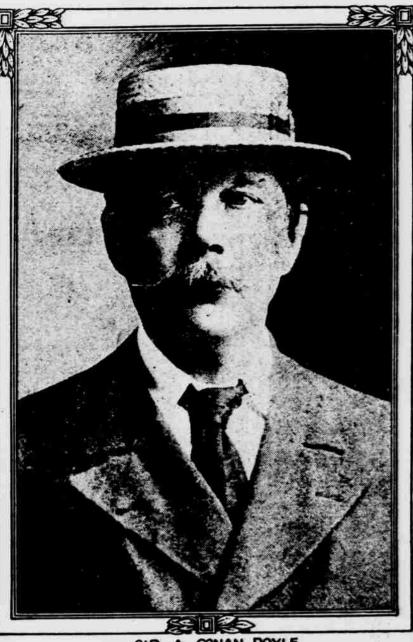
Doyle joined the Psychical Research Society about 1891 and had the opportunity to read all its reports. He thinks that the world owes a great deal to the society, yet he complains that the semi-scientific terminology of its reports "chokes off the ordinary reader." He went to a haunted house with two other members of the society and heard tremendous noises in the night. Afterward he heard that after this visit the bones of a child, "evidently long murdered," were dug up in the garden of the haunted house.

As to Palladino.

The author speaks respectfully of the Fox sisters and does not refer to their established proficiency as knuckle crackers. If he did he might excuse it as he does the ains of that later medium, Palladino:

"I think that the presumption is very clear, that in the case of some mediums like Eusapia l'alladino they may be guilty of trickery when their powers fail them, and yet at other times have very genuine gifts. Mediumship in its lowest forms is a purely physical gift with no relation to morality. . . . However, I personally prefer to cut my experience with a discredited medium out of my record and I think that all physical phenomena produced in the dark must necessarily lose much of their value unless they are accompanied by evidential messages as well."

It was not until the war came that



Author of " The New Revelation .

Doyle "seemed suddenly to see that this subject with which I had so long dallied was not merely a study of a force outside the rules of science, but that it was really something tremendous, a breaking down of the walls between two worlds."

Sir Arthur does not believe in hell as a permanent place, but he accepts the religious idea of Purgatory on what he has heard from the other side:

"Without such punishments there could be no justice in the universe, for how impossible it would be to imagine that the fate of a Rasputin is the same as that of a Father Damien. The punishment is very certain and very serious, though in its less severe forms it only consists in the fact that the grosser souls are in lower spheres with a knowledge that their own deeds have placed them there, but also with the hope that expiation and the help of those above them will educate them and bring them level with the others."

Doyle accepts the theory, now come

mon among most spiritualists, that the life beyond is in phases and "apparently there is more communication between these phases than there is between us and Spiritland."

This is the conclusion which the au-

"That in spite of occasional fraud, which spiritualists deplore, and in spite of wild imaginings, which they discourage, there remains a great solid core in this movement which is infinitely nearer to positive proof than any other religious development with which I am acquainted. It is absolute lunacy or it is a revolution in religious thought, a revolution which gives us as by-products an utter fear-lessness of death, and an immense consolation when those who are dear to us pass behind the veil."

The stories of the author's experiences and investigations will interest the reader even if they fail to convince him.

THE NEW BEVELATION. By Sin As-THUR CONAN DOYLE. George H. Doran Company. \$1.

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